

Report to Partnership Meeting 11 September 2020

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

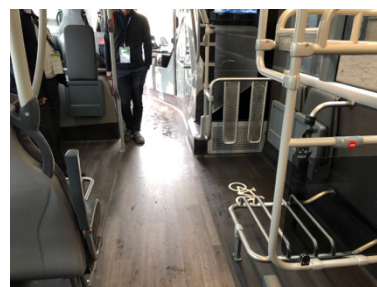
To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND (Transport Scotland)

A total of £187k is available for projects in 2020/21 under the following headings:

- **Bikes on Buses**

Initial engagement with West Coast Motors to fit out buses on Mull & Mid Argyll have been very positive, with HITRANS funding the capital costs of converting space on low floor buses for on board cycle carriage, and West Coast Motors covering installation. Potentially 7 buses will be covered.



- **Cycle Parking at Transport Interchanges**

Bids are invited from Partnership Members for funding to install cycle parking at transport interchanges and community hubs, particularly in rural areas and strategic transport corridors.

- **Active Travel Masterplan Small Interventions**

The following project in Highland will be taken forward under this budget heading, and bids are invited for up to £40k match funding for other interventions as some planned projects are no longer able to be taken forward this financial year.

- Nairn Lochloy; initial phase of works for active travel link between Forres Road and Lochloy Road in Nairn. HITRANS contribution to match developer contribution.

- **Active Travel Project Design**

The following projects will be taken forward in Orkney and Highland, and bids are invited for design and appraisal work, particularly detailed design of small works to support the delivery of the Active Travel Masterplan Action Plan. Design work can be 100% funded and there is a further £22k available.

- Kirkwall Town Centre Accessibility; design & implementation of small works to remove barriers to active travel and improve accessibility for all.
- Inverness Rose Street active travel links design.

Projects from 2019/20 which were delayed due to Covid-19 are now progressing or complete:

- Street lighting and signage improvements to improve access to Aviemore Station with match funding from ScotRail Station Fund: due to complete Oct 2020
- Design work on active travel improvements at Uig on Skye: complete
- Cycle parking at transport interchanges: to be installed on Skye and Kyle of Lochalsh by Oct 2020
- Contribution to Transport Hub as part of Wick Riverside improvements: due to complete Oct 2020

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

£100k is available again in 2020-21 through the Sustrans Partnership Fund. Bids are invited from Partnership Members; these can include small local placemaking / space reallocation interventions in rural areas to give space for people and make it safer for walking, cycling and wheeling, and for temporary or semi-permanent equipment for Open Streets events, School Street Closures etc.

The following projects are being taken forward:

- Wick and Thurso Active Travel Masterplan updates
- Elgin Active Travel Map

Projects from 2019/20 which were delayed due to Covid-19 are now progressing or complete and funding has been carried forward into 2020/21:

- Active Travel Route Monitoring in Inverness and Fort William: due to complete in Sept 2020
- Portable Parklets at Inverness Station: due to complete later in the year
- Fort William wayfinding strategy: due to complete Oct 2020

OTHER PROJECTS

Inverness eBike Share Scheme – HIBIKE

The ebike share scheme for Inverness is progressing with operator Bewegen. Bikes and docking stations are due to be shipped to Inverness in mid-October, ready to set up and launch at the end of the year.



Fort William Active Travel Action Group

In August HITRANS hosted the first (virtual) meeting to form an active travel group in Fort William – the group was due to convene in April but was postponed due to Covid-19. It includes representatives from community councils, councillors, cycling groups, local disability access group, local businesses, Lochaber Environmental Group, Sustrans, Highland Council, Transport Scotland and Bear Scotland.

Black Parks Active Travel Route, Fort William

Part of the Spine Route identified in the Fort William AT Masterplan. Highland Council has been able to temporarily close the route to vehicles and carry out some drainage work and surfacing on this important active travel route, through the Spaces for People fund. HITRANS are taking forward applications to Places for Everyone and Town Centre Regeneration Fund for further improvements, including street lighting and permanent closure to vehicles. The Active Travel Officer chairs a project steering group including community representatives and the landowner, which meets regularly.

Rural Ebikes

The rural ebike trial continues in Fort William, Aviemore and Grantown on Spey. Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be carried out over the next few months.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the different Active Travel funding streams which will support HITRANS wider policy objectives and priorities.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and Active Travel Framework.

Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Vikki Trelfer
Designation: Active Travel Officer
Date: 28th August 2020